AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1-4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method comprising acts of:

    providing a scheduler including a plurality of calendars used to determine when a frame is to be moved from a flow queue;

    providing at least one search engine to search the calendars;

    defining a tic period within which searching is to be completed;

    searching with the search engine the calendars so determined;

    postponing search of any calendars so determined if postponed calendars could not be searched within the tic period;

    wherein the act of determining calendar~~s~~ to be searched further includes the acts of:

    providing a first register for storing bits indicating calendars whose current time (Ct) has changed during a ~~tick~~ tic cycle;

    providing at least one counter with sufficient bits to count to 2^{m-1}, where m=number of bits required to represent number of location in calendar;

    providing at least one counter with sufficient location to count to log 2m, wherein log $2m = 2^m$ = max number of locations in a calendar;

    stepping the counter in accordance with a predefined pattern; and

    adjusting contents of the first register based upon contents of the counter.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The method of claim 6~~ A method comprising acts of:

proviging a scheduler including a plurality of calendars used to determine when a frame is to be moved from a flow queue;

providing at least one search engine to search the calendars;

defining a tic period within which searching is to be completed;

searching with the search engine the calendars so determined;

postponing search of any calendars so determined if postponed calendars could not be searched within the tic period;

tagging calendars whose search was postponed,

wherein tagging further includes the acts of providing a register with positions corresponding to the plurality of calendars; and

setting a bit in position corresponding to calendars whose search has been postponed in a particular tic cycle.

8-18. (Cancelled)